

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 30th November 1901.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2682. The *Hindoo Patriot* makes some suggestions for the ampler employment of Barristers. In addition to appointing them to the Law Membership in the Governor-General's Council, Judgeships of the High Courts, and all the offices ordinarily held by members of the Bar, the *Patriot* would like to see them fill the following posts:—

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd Nov. 1901.

Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the Legislative Department.
Registrar, Legislative Department, Governments of India and Bengal.
Registrar, Original Side, High Court.
Chief Clerk, ditto.
First Assistant Registrar, High Court.
Private Secretary to the Chief Justice.

It would have them continually promoted, according to merit and qualifications, and the young Barrister Assistant Registrar of the High Court must be assured that he will one day rise to the Registrarship of the High Court or Administrator-General of Bengal.

2683. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates a case in which a woman at Bongong, Jessore, in a quarrel with her paramour injured him by some means, but shortly afterwards made up with the man. A woman of the neighbourhood officiously, however, sent for the police and the wounded man was taken to the hospital the same night, but not being examined returned to his home, that is, to the house of the woman.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Nov. 1901.

In due time the woman was put on her trial and notwithstanding the complainant's desire to compound the case, and the adverse remarks of the Subdivisional Officer on the deposition of the Hospital Assistant, the woman was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

(d)—Education.

2684. The *East* writes strongly against the action of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University in withdrawing their recognition from the old W. B. Union Institution, Uzirpur, Backergunge, which was established in 1898, and conferring it upon a school of the same name started by a dismissed Head-master of the old school in February 1901.

EAST,
23rd Nov. 1901.

The action of the Syndicate is characterised as egregious, absurd, perverse and startling, and is sure to prove mischievous in its result.

2685. The *Hindoo Patriot* referring to the same subject, remarks that if the Syndicate stick to their resolution and refuse to cure the position by the only means now in their power, it will be under the painful necessity of making many facts public which will not be relished either by the Syndicate or the parties who are interested in the recognition of the new school.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd Nov. 1901.

2686. There is no doubt, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that the authorities of the Universities other than Madras have not only miserably failed in their duty, but their system is responsible for the premature death of many a bright student. One of the causes why the higher classes are disappearing from Bengal is the way Indian lads are educated in this 'unfortunate' country.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Nov. 1901.

(e)—Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

2687. A correspondent complaining of certain irregularities in the Tax-collecting Department of the Barrackpore Cantonment, the *Bengalee* appeals to Colonel Rossetter, in whom it has every confidence, to exert his strong personality and, after causing a sifting enquiry into the complaints, rescue the department from the hopeless muddle into which it has fallen.

BENGALIAN,
27th Nov. 1901.

BENGALUR,
27th Nov. 1901.

2688. Referring to the appearance in the last Annual Report on the Administration of the Calcutta Municipality, of the remarks of Mr. Blackwood, Deputy Chairman, relating to the difference of Rs. 30,056 between the total outstandings of the Warrant Department and the amount shown as outstanding by the Accounts Department, the *Bengalee* holds that the publication of this document is scandalously damaging to the reputation of the Vice-Chairman as the head of the Accounts Department. The discrepancy having been proved to be the result of carelessness and miscalculation in the Department represented by the Deputy Chairman, who has admitted his mistake, although he has not withdrawn the remarks or apologised for them, the writer considers that Mr. Blackwood should not be let off without a censure; that the Corporation and Government should award some punishment to those responsible for the blunder; that they should decide whether the Deputy Chairman was morally justified in incorporating the remarks in a published document, and whether they were so incorporated with the knowledge and permission of the Chairman, and, lastly, whether the Government ought not to modify the public acknowledgment of Mr. Blackwood's services made in the Administration Report.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

INDIAN MIRROR,
27th Nov. 1901.

2689. The *Indian Mirror* is glad to see that there is at last some possibility of the system of agricultural banking being generally introduced into this country. It approves generally of the scheme formulated by the Committee and thinks that it should be given a trial, but hopes that His Excellency the Viceroy will find it possible to extend the scope of its usefulness.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Nov. 1901.

2690. Adverting to the Committee recently appointed by Government to consider the question of the establishment of agricultural banks in India, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, after noticing the fact that not a single Indian was appointed to the Committee, draws the attention of the Government, zamindars and agricultural classes generally to the scheme of Rai Parvati Sanker Chaudhuri, zamindar of Joyaganj, in Dinajpur, and Honorary Secretary to the Calcutta Industrial Association, for establishing co-operative corn banks which he calls "Dharma golas." The Babu's gola was started in 1892 with 80 maunds of rice, and it was found in April last that the stock had increased in eight years to 770 maunds. Here is a scheme which can be introduced in almost every village of India, and permanent reserve-stocks of paddy established all over the country.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BEHAR HERALD,
3rd Nov. 1901.

2691. The *Behar Herald* hopes that the appointment of the Irrigation Commission will not end in the collection of information only, and that some real good will come out of it, and that the Commission will make such recommendations as are likely to be most successful with the Government. It bemoans the wastage of the annual monsoon supply of water which is allowed to be poured into the sea when, by some control and regulation, it could be utilised in enriching the soil and preventing famines.

BENGALUR,
24th Nov. 1901.

2692. The *Bengalee* throws out the suggestion that, following in the footsteps of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Indian public bodies, Hindu and Muhammadan, should invite Mr. Robertson, the Special Commissioner for the investigation of the railway systems in India, to a conference and place before him the grievances from which Indian railway passengers suffer.

As regards the meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the recommendation that the Government should be asked to provide a reserve wagon fund of, say, 5,000 wagons belonging to the State, to be let out when wanted, the *Bengalee* remarks:—It is no part of the duty of the Government to help Railway Companies in the manner suggested. The Government may, if necessary, take power to compel Railway Administrations to provide an

adequate supply of wagons, but the State funds should not be devoted to such a purpose.

(h)—General.

2693. The *Bengalee* is glad to learn that the Commanding Officer at Barrackpore has caused stringent steps to be taken to prevent the freaks of soldiers, and that he has forbidden them from crossing over to Serampore on pain of severe penalties. The gallant Colonel's action in this and other matters is greatly appreciated, and the writer, who hears he will shortly retire, hopes the Government will see its way to grant the Commanding Officer an extension until he has completed his reforms.

BENGALIEE,
22nd Nov. 1901.

2694. Adverting to the *Englishman's* remarks on the value set by the Viceroy on personal rule, the *Bengalee* remarks:—

BENGALIEE,
22nd Nov. 1901.

Indian opinion has not condemned the formation of the new administration on the North-Western frontier on lines of personal administration, because the communities concerned are in a semi-savage condition. Any attempt to extend this system to other parts of India and to substitute a reign of discretion for a reign of law would evoke the sternest opposition. It would be the signal for the adoption of a reactionary policy, which would be fraught with disaster to the people, and would not be helpful to the rulers. If European Governments are willing to unlearn the lessons which they have taught the rest of mankind, they are welcome to it, but we, their pupils, will not forget those lessons, and we are resolved, by all the constitutional means at our disposal, to safeguard the heritage of constitutional rule, fraught with unspeakable possibilities of development, which we have received from the great founders of the Anglo-Indian Empire, and which will continue, for all time to come, to be the noblest monument of British rule.

2695. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* understands that the Government is going to transfer the subdivision of Govindpur from Chota Nagpur to Burdwan, to oblige the members of the Mining Association, and in the face of the opposition offered by the zamindars of Chota Nagpur, the Commissioner and other authorities of the Chota Nagpur Division. It suggests that the zamindars should detail their grievances in a memorial to the Viceroy. The Government of Bengal seems to be acting in a hole-and-corner fashion, and has not only not sought the opinion of the local authorities on the measure, but has asked the zamindars not to refer to the subject in their address to the Lieutenant-Governor who is expected there at the end of this month. In conclusion, it trusts that Sir John Woodburn will not take any hasty action in the matter.

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PATRIKA,
22nd Nov. 1901.

2696. The following paragraph is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

BENGALIEE,
26th Nov. 1901.

Ibid. The transfer of the Govindpur subdivision is viewed with profound disappointment by the local public. The transfer, we understand, has been made, despite the protests of the local officers and zamindars. Local opinion, in this case, has not had that full play to which it is entitled. We trust the matter will be yet reconsidered. The transfer has been made at the instance of the Indian Mining Association. Mining interests should not, indeed, be ignored, but local opinion and even local prejudices ought always to be a dominant factor in the consideration and settlement of local questions.

2697. With reference to the proposed transfer of the Govindpur subdivision of the Manbhum district to Burdwan, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hears that the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division and the Deputy

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Nov. 1901.

Ibid. Commissioner of Manbhum, not to mention the strong opposition of the general public, have emphatically protested against the measure, which it is alleged is being given effect to at the request of the Mining Association on grounds which have not been made known to the district officers. The writer warns the Government that it will not be wise to ignore the universal chorus of opposition offered, and considers it unreasonable that such a vast area of coal-producing country should, as the Mining Association have requested, be

brought under one jurisdiction. As well might the gentlemen interested in tea or jute ask for the same centralization.

The Lieutenant-Governor is appealed to to do justice in this case and prove the groundlessness of the suspicion, so widely prevalent, that the transfer in question is being effected with a view to benefit a section of the European mercantile community of Calcutta.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Nov. 1901.

2698. Reviewing the benefits derived from the expansion of the Councils, which was to have brought the rulers in touch with the representatives of the people and to have worked nothing but good, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says: We are no better now than when the Councils consisted only of Government members.....The rulers have no need of the representatives.....they are nuisances.....figure-heads, kept for purposes of show.

The reform of the Councils is only remembered when an election takes place. It is then that the greatest possible mischief is done; friends are ranged on opposite sides and bad blood is created, the effects of which last till death. Then follows apathy; and it is seen that the men who worked hardest were those who were most self-interested. Therefore, says the *Patrika*, in conclusion, we must change our leaders and methods as well. We have patriots by hundreds. But they are ignored; they are given no opportunity of working on behalf of the country; it is these men who must be brought to the front.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd Nov. 1901.

2699. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes some reflections on the danger of appointing Europeans to posts of responsibility on small salaries, with special reference to the dismissal of Mr. R. L. Ward, District Superintendent of Police, Rangpur, and the trial of Mr. Ross, late Commissioner of the Sunderbuns.

With regard to the first case, it holds that Government should have put Mr. Ward on his trial before removing him from service, and points to the case of Mr. Ross as an instance of the impossibility of a European officer in his position living honestly, when, as a member of the ruling race, he had to mix with big officials and live like them. He was thus forced to meet his wants by using his master's money. It observes how seldom one hears of a native Judge or Magistrate guilty of the crime of bribery.

BENGALIEE,
24th Nov. 1901.

2700. Criticising Lord George Hamilton's speech at Acton, in which he spoke of the prosperity of India, the *Bengalee* is prepared to agree with those who hold that famines in India are due to droughts and other natural causes, but dissents from the view held by a certain class of Anglo-Indian officials, that Indian famines, being the results of natural causes, cannot be controlled by Government.

What Government has hitherto been doing has been only to cure, as far as lies in its power, the evil effects of famine. Government has been all along trying remedies, which are empirical to cure a disease, of which it is unwilling to remove the causes. The *Bengalee* holds that the real cause of these visitations, does not lie so much in droughts, or the like natural phenomena, as in the growing poverty of the people of India. To the writer it is amazing how, in the teeth of such unmistakeable evidence of the growing poverty of India, Lord George Hamilton can have the assurance to declare to the people of Acton that India is on the high road to prosperity.

The writer next questions the view held by the noble Lord that Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty surpasses every other Viceroyalty. Beyond ingratiating himself with *Keranidom* all over Bengal by such measures as ensuring clerks their holidays and abolishing fining, &c., His Excellency's government has been peculiarly retrograde. He has struck a blow at Local Self-Government, and he is largely responsible for the obnoxious land legislation in the Punjab. But it is premature to strike the balance between the good and the evil of which His Excellency is author, although the *Bengalee* holds that if a balance was to be struck just now, the evil would be found to preponderate over the good. With some further remarks disagreeing with Lord Curzon's views of a personal rule, the writer concludes as follows:—

The usurpation, therefore, by Lord George Hamilton of the functions of history in Lord Curzon's case must be pronounced by all impartial men to be

premature, and his eulogistic pronouncements on the phenomenal success of Lord Curzon's Government must be held to be mere rhetorical clap-trap uttered by the noble Lord to capture the good people of Acton.

2701. The *Indian Nation*, referring to the late Cawnpore prosecution, exhorts both the native and European sections of the press to sink their differences, and set on foot a general movement for the reform of the existing law of libel which affects them, inasmuch as there is something incongruous in the practice of dragging a newspaper staff hundreds of miles away to answer a groundless charge of defamation without any compensation being awarded it for all the needless suffering and expense to which it is subjected.

INDIAN NATION,
25th Nov. 1901.

2702. The *Behar Herald* prints some papers on the case of Madhab Sikdar and others (appellants) *versus* Ghatwal Kunj Behari Singh (respondent). The parties belong to the subdivision of Deoghur, in the Sonthal Parganas, and the facts of the case are that some 50 years ago the father of the respondent, Kunj Behari Singh, gave *devuttar* holding, consisting of 1 bigha 4 cottahs, to one Maharaj Singh's father, who in his turn let it out on rent to the fathers of the present appellants. The latter have held it since and have regularly paid the rent. Kunj Behari Singh succeeded to the ghatwali seven years ago, and in 1307 B.S. turned the plaintiffs (appellants) out. On this, Madhab Sikdar and others unsuccessfully brought a suit in the Court of the Deputy Collector of Deoghur to recover possession and have appealed in turn to the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghur, the Commissioner of the Division and twice to the Lieutenant-Governor.

BEHAR HERALD,
27th Nov. 1901.

The *Herald* comments as follows on the case:—

The question is of paramount importance to the raiyats in general of the province, for if Madhab Sikdar can be dispossessed of his tenure this wise, many more raiyats in the district of the Sonthal Parganas will be in a similar unfortunate predicament. We have no words but of praise for Mr. Williams, Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, and are aware that on the whole his judgments give satisfaction to the people of his Province. But we cannot hide our belief that in the case of Madhab Sikdar *versus* Ghatwal Kunj Behari Singh and in two more cases of similar nature—the facts of which we shall place before our readers as we go on—Mr. Williams has erred, and the result of his errors has been the rousing of a strong feeling in the district of the Sonthal Parganas. We shall have something more to say on this matter later.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

2703. The *Bengalee* repeats that to deny to the Maharaja of Panna the right to be tried by his own peers is virtually to degrade him in public estimation, and will not fail to create a sense of sullen discontent and, perhaps, alarm in the mind of every Indian Prince. Relying on the pure motives which animated the Government in appointing the Commission, it appeals to it to modify the *personnel* of the Commission with a leaven of the Indian element.

BENGALIAN,
24th Nov. 1901.

It next takes exception to the status of the Commissioners appointed to try the Maharaja. It remarks:—

We are not aware of any reasons why the Government of India gave preference to an Uncovenanted Deputy Commissioner, and a comparatively inexperienced Judicial Commissioner, while there is no dearth of civilian Commissioners, or Deputy Commissioners, or even Judicial Commissioners of high standing. We should be sorry, if Indian public opinion found in the status of the Commissioners any ground to cavil at the sense of justice, which, we are ready to believe, has led His Excellency Lord Curzon to appoint a Commission for the trial of the Maharaja of Panna.

2704. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* holds that the Maharaja of Panna and his men should be given the full advantage of the law and procedure obtaining in British India. For instance, there is no reason why the trial should not be held in Panna instead of at Nowgong, where it would be difficult for the Maharaja to secure the attendance of his witnesses.

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25th Nov. 1901.

It then proceeds to remark that the Government in the Resolution gives no clue as to who is the Maharaja's accuser and what led the Government to put so much faith in his accusations as to issue warrants against the Maharaja and deprive him of his liberty. No Indian Prince is safe after this. What guarantee has he that his enemies cannot ruin him by secretly working against him? Every British subject, must be tried under law and procedure. However serious the crime imputed may be, and however high the position of the Judge who tries the case may be, the latter can never override law and procedure. But in the case of Panna he will not have these benefits.

A Commission is appointed to reject or accept evidence as it thinks fit. In other words, the laws enacted and the procedure laid down for the guidance of judicial officers are unnecessary. Following this case, it would be a good thing if Government abolished all law and procedure. Litigation would thus be put down and the people would be saved. But as this is never likely to occur, the *Patrika* is indignant that the Government has not thought fit to treat the Maharaja as it would the meanest of its subjects. It appeals to Lord Curzon to remove this defect which places the British Government and the Princes in a most delicate position.

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PATRIKA,
26th Nov. 1901.

2705. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the Commissioners appointed to try the Maharaja of Panna are neither Judges nor Jurors and have neither the power to sum up evidence nor award punishment. The punishment will be awarded by a court which will not have the advantage of personally watching the demeanour of witnesses, the accused and the complainants. Whoever, asks the *Patrika*, ever heard of a trial like this? Two Commissioners forwarding their verdict in a case involving the question of life or death of several persons, to a distant court for its confirmation or reversal!

If an Englishman would never consider it a fair trial unless he secured twelve or nine of his peers to hear his case, why should the Maharaja consider the trial given to him a satisfactory one, when the Commissioners appointed to try him have no Judge to control them, when they are only two, when they are not his peers, nay, when they are not even his countrymen at all?

The Government should inaugurate a system for the trial of Indian Princes which would satisfy the ends of justice and, at the same time, maintain its prestige. For instance, it might have given the two Commissioners the powers and privileges of a Judge and associated with them twelve nobles of the Panna State to act the part of Jury. As at present situated, the position of Indian Princes is miserable; the meanest of British subjects is infinitely better off in many respects than they who are said to enjoy sovereign powers.

BENGALIEE,
24th Nov. 1901.

2706. Adverting to the appointment of Mr. Casson Walker to the Finance Ministership of Hyderabad, and to his controlling the Railway and Mining Departments of that State, the *Bengalee* wishes to know whether the appointment means the affording of facilities for the exploitation of the mineral resources of Hyderabad by European capital. If such a result were to follow Mr. Walker's appointment, it would mean financial disaster to the Nizam's Government; it would mean the withdrawal of all his mineral wealth, his people only obtaining the wages of menial labour.

It then points to the number of departments in the State which are in the charge of Europeans, and protests that it is a kind of veiled annexation, in which the forms of an independent administration are kept up in name, the control being in the hands of European officers in the confidence of the Government of India and nominated, if not by, at any rate, with the concurrence of the Government of India.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Nov. 1901.

2707. A writer in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* describes the agricultural prospects in Bihar, and says that if rain does not fall by the second week of December at the latest, "the magnitude of the distress that is in store for the peasantry can hardly be estimated."

He hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will take immediate steps to open relief works to afford protection to the working classes, who are in utter despair, and that His Honour will have tanks dug up every year, so that in years of drought people may find sufficient water to cultivate their fields to save themselves from starvation, and thus relieves the Government from a considerable anxiety on their behalf.

It is feared that the existing reservoirs of water will soon dry up in case rain does not fall in a short time, and then people will find themselves in the additional difficulty of providing water for their cattle.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2708. After dwelling on the unfitness of the British Indian Association for the franchise conferred on it, which has resulted in disunion, the *Indian Mirror* recommends the zamindars of Bengal to lose no time in bringing about the amalgamation of the British Indian and the Bengal Landholders' Association as well as the zamindari panchayet, and advises them to live in future as a happy family and give up wrangling.

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th Nov. 1901.

It finally congratulates Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, Bahadur, of Cossimbazar, on his election to the Bengal Legislative Council, and hopes he will be able to maintain that manly independence and sober judgment which are so necessary in a legislator.

2709. The *Hindoo Patriot* bemoans the absence from the deliberations of the National Congress of all considerations affecting the progress made by the nation, and suggests that every province in India should have an annual return containing accurate information on this subject. It also recommends the collection of statistics to show the number of persons employed in Government and private service, with a view to approach the Government, the Railway authorities and Chambers of Commerce on behalf of the unemployed. Similar statistics should be forthcoming as to the number of persons receiving education in schools, &c., and steps should be taken, in the interests of national progress, for the spread of education.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
26th Nov. 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 30th November 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

